highest class of intelligence there is upon
the face of the earth. Why are they in
their present degradation? We see them
as they are, we see the nations as they are. Take the Jewish nation, why are they as they are? Is there a cause for
it? There certainly is. We have had
a short account from brother George A.
Smith about the land of their fathers;
we can draw our own conclusions as to
the causes which have brought about the
present condition of that land and of the
descendants of the ancient worthies to
whom it was given. In the nations of
the earth at the present day we see im-
becility, slothfulness, and I will say ig-
norance with all its attendant crimes
and debauchery, prevailing among the
masses of the people. There is a rea-
son for all this. The time was when na-
tions, now unknown, which once flour-
ished upon the eastern continent, were
intelligent and full of the spirit of thrift
and industry. Who can tell us why
they have passed away and are forgot-
ten. Brother George A. told us this morn-
ing, that the place where the great city
of Babylon stood, or where it is sup-
posed to have stood, is now an inacces-
sible swamp and a desert. Where is the
Babylonish nation? We know nothing
about it. Where are the nations of Is-
rael? We hardly know anything about
them, with the exception of the tribe of
Judah and the half tribe of Benjamin,
which remain scattered among the na-
tions of the earth, desolate and forlorn.
They have been hunted down with dogs,
and the time has been when it was per-
fectly lawful in some nations for every
Christian child who was disposed to do
so to, stone a Jew while passing through
the streets; and it is not long since they
were not permitted to own a foot of land
in any of the Gentile nations. This is
not so now. But what was the cause of
all this? Their history is not lost, nei-
ther are they, and the simple reason they
are not is because they were the cho-
sen of the Lord, they were to be held
in remembrance by our heavenly Father.
A remnant of the people of Israel are
to be saved, and they will yet be gath-
ered together. But other nations that ex-
isted before the flood, and many before
the days of Jesus, where are they? Who
knows anything about them? They are
lost as far as history is concerned; and
many people since the days of the Savior
have been blotted from the remembrance
of man.

Here are a people dwelling in these
mountains who profess to be the Saints
of the Most High, the beloved of the Lord.
They have received his Priesthood and
its keys, the keys of Government, and
the plan of the government of the heav-
enly hosts, as far as man is capable of
receiving this divine, celestial and holy
law. When we contemplate the course
of the Latter-day Saints, we are almost
led to inquire what will be their future
history. It is true that we have hopes
different from those who have lived be-
fore us, but let this people, called Latter-
day Saints, be blessed for twenty years
to come as they have been for twenty
years past, and the Lord not take them
in hand, but let them take their own
course as they have done, and as they
are now doing, although we consider our-
selves quite obedient and willing, and we
like to know the mind and will of the
Lord, but let us, I say, go on for twenty
years to come, in the same ratio as for
twenty years past, and who among us
would hearken to the counsel of God? Let
the old stock—those who have lived in